

The CTE Assessment Story

Arizona Skill Standards Assessment System

In 2006, the Arizona Department of Education, Career and Technical Education, created the Arizona skill Standards Assessment System in response to HB2700 and similar federal legislation that requires students to pass industry-validated end-of-program assessments leading to an industry-recognized credential, postsecondary education, and/or employment. The Arizona Career and Technical Education Quality Commission (formally the Arizona Skills Standards Commission) is the validating entity for the assessment system and the program assessments, certificates, and transcripts. These major business and education representatives meet on a regular basis and work diligently in their role as advocates for accountability and excellence in Career and Technical Education in Arizona.

Online Assessments for CTE Students

The Arizona Skill Standards Assessment System is a secure, reliable, online test application owned by the State of Arizona and housed in the Department of Education. Assessments are designed for CTE students who are in their final Carnegie Unit of the state-identified sequence of courses for a program. Each assessment is 100 multiple-choice items that are aligned with program technical standards that have been validated by Arizona business and Industry representatives. Assessment items range in cognitive difficulty from knowledge and comprehension to application, analysis, and evaluation.

Assessments Developed by CTE Teachers

There are ongoing opportunities for CTE teachers to be involved in the development and analysis of assessment items. Committees comprised of secondary and postsecondary teachers as content experts convene on Super Saturdays in January, April, and May or during Teacher Institutes in June or July. The expertise of teachers and their engagement in making connections between curriculum, instruction, and assessment has contributed greatly to the advancement of student achievement. In appreciation of their time and expertise, each teacher is awarded a professional development certificate, documenting the hours contributed to the improvement of CTE assessments.

5-Year Overview of Assessment Outcomes

2010-2011				
Number of Assessments	51	Students Assessed	20,029	Students Passed 15,831 (79%)
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2011-2012				
Number of Assessments	49	Students Assessed	21,639	Students Passed 17,213 (80%)
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2012-2013				
Number of Assessments	49	Students Assessed	22,133	Students Passed 17,138 (77%)
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2013-2014				
Number of Assessments	52	Students Assessed	23,417	Students Passed 18,118 (77%)
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2014-2015				
Number of Assessments	58	Students Assessed	27,731	Students Passed 21,651 (78%)

Note: Students have two opportunities to take the assessment: once as a practice assessment and again as a final assessment. The student number for the period shown above indicates only those students who took the assessment as a final, end-of-program assessment.

Highlights:

- Some 130-150 business-industry representatives annually involved in validating program standards
- Some 200 to 250 teachers annually involved in analyzing and developing assessment items
- Increased number of program assessments available to students
- Increased number of students taking the assessments
- Increased percentage of students passing the assessments
- For 2015-2016, 60 program assessments available for CTE students

Assessment Meetings for 2015-2016

Assessment meetings are customized according to the specific need of the programs. This may include realignment of updated technical standards to test items, analysis of test items, editing items, and/or continuing to build the test item banks with higher-order thinking items. All meetings are from 7:30 to 5:00. Continental breakfast and lunch are included. Teachers will receive a \$150 stipend for all-day attendance, along with professional development hours.

Announcements and applications for these meetings will be forthcoming.

CMT Super Saturday / January 16, 2016 / ADE Central Avenue Phoenix

Animation
Digital Photography
Digital Printing
Film and TV
Graphic/Web Design
Journalism
Music and Audio Production

AG Super Saturday / January 23, 2016 / Peoria HS Library

Agribusiness Systems
Animal Systems
Natural Renewable Resource
Plant Systems

Assessment Super Saturday / April 23, 2016 / ADE Central Avenue Phoenix

Early Childhood Education
Education Professions
Fashion Design
Hospitality Management
Law, Public Safety and Security

Assessment Super Saturday / April 30, 2016 / ADE Central

Engineering Sciences
Fire Service
Welding Technologies
Precision Machining
Electronics Drafting
Mechanical Drafting

Teacher Institute I / June 4, 2016 / ADE Central Avenue Phoenix

Entrepreneurship
Professional Sales and Marketing
Entertainment Marketing
Advertising and Public Relations

Teacher Institute II / June 17, 2016 / ADE Central Avenue Phoenix

Aircraft Mechanics
Automotive Technologies
Cabinetmaking
Carpentry
Diesel Engine Repair
Heavy Equipment Operations
Air Transportation

Teacher Institute III / June 23, 2016 / ADE Central Avenue Phoenix

Dental Assisting
Health Information Technologies
Emergency Medical Services

Teacher Institute IV / June 30, 2016 / ADE Central Avenue Phoenix

Therapeutic Massage
Veterinary Assisting

Teacher Institute V / July 7, 2016 / ADE Central

Medical Assisting
Lab Assisting

For questions about Program Assessments and Assessment Meetings, contact Judy Balogh at 602-542-4155 or judy.balogh@azed.gov.